



CITRUS

DECEMBER FORECAST

MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

In Cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

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ALL ORANGES NOW 140.0 MILLION BOXES

The Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is increased four percent from 135.0 million boxes initially forecast in October to 140.0 million. Both categories are increased, Early-Mid-Navels from 72.0 million boxes to 75.0 million and Valencias from 63.0 to 65.0 million. The forecast of all oranges is five percent less than last season and 104 million boxes or 43 percent less than the record 244.0 million boxes produced in the 1997-98 season.

Although rainfall has been below average in the last two months, timely rainfall in November and irrigation have helped maintain trees and fruit in good condition. Cooler temperatures in November were beneficial to trees and fruit maturity levels. Reports indicate excellent internal and external quality fruit for both fresh and processing usage.

EARLY-MIDSEASON-NAVEL NOW 75.0 MILLION BOXES

The early-midseason-Navel forecast (including Temples) is increased 3.0 million boxes. Included in this forecast is the **Navel** category which is increased from 3.3 million to 3.5 million boxes. Average fruit size has increased on Navels and fruit per box at harvest is now expected to be 130.

CITRUS PRODUCTION: DECEMBER 1, 2006

Forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2004-05	2005-06	Oct 12, 2006	Dec 11, 2006

- - - 1,000 boxes - - -

EARLY, MIDSEASON, AND NAVEL ORANGES:

FLORIDA^{1/}	79,100	75,000	72,000	75,000
California	44,000	45,500	33,000	33,000
Texas	1,500	1,400	1,540	1,540
Arizona	240	250	200	200
Total Above Varieties	124,840	122,150	106,740	109,740

VALENCIAS:

FLORIDA	70,700	72,900	63,000	65,000
California	20,500	12,000	13,000	13,000
Texas	270	200	240	240
Arizona	190	200	150	150
Total Valencias	91,660	85,300	76,390	78,390

ALL ORANGES:

FLORIDA	149,800	147,900	135,000	140,000
California	64,500	57,500	46,000	46,000
Texas	1,770	1,600	1,780	1,780
Arizona	430	450	350	350
Total All Oranges	216,500	207,450	183,130	188,130

^{1/} Includes Temples beginning in 2006-07. Historic Temple production listed on page 2.

FORECAST DATES 2006-07 SEASON

January 12, 2007	May 11, 2007
February 9, 2007	June 11, 2007
March 9, 2007	July 12, 2007
April 10, 2007	

Average fruit sizes of early and midseason oranges increased more over the last two months than anticipated and the fruit per box factor in the expansion model is decreased to 236 from 243. Droppage rates remain low and droppage to harvest is now expected to be one percentage point less. Both factors increase the indications of the amount of fruit to be harvested. Harvest for processing has begun with peak weekly usage expected in early January.

VALENCIA ORANGES 65.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of Valencia (late season) oranges is increased from 63.0 to 65.0 million boxes. This is 11 percent less than last season's production and the lowest amount since the 1991-92 season. The fruit size growth rate is greater than expected in October and average fruit per box is now estimated at 204 instead of 209. Droppage rates are also low and droppage to harvest is anticipated to be one percentage point less than previously accepted. Both factors indicated more fruit to be harvested.

COMPONENTS USED IN THE DECEMBER FORECAST

Type	Bearing Trees	Fruit per Tree	Percent Droppage	Fruit per box
(1,000)				
ORANGES:				
Early-Mid	27,209	696	7	236
Navel	1,467	342	10	130
Valencia	37,133	428	12	204

FCOJ YIELD 1.58 GALLONS PER BOX

The projection of FCOJ yield remains at 1.58 gallons per box of 42 degrees Brix concentrate. The average of the last 10 seasons is 1.58 gallon. Next month's release will project the early-mid and Valencia categories separately. See page 3 of this release for the latest Maturity Test Results.

GRAPEFRUIT 26.0 MILLION BOXES

The Florida grapefruit forecast remains at 26.0 million boxes (including an allocation of 700,000 boxes for other use). The forecast consisting of 9.0 million boxes of white and 17.0 million boxes of colored grapefruit is unchanged since the initial forecast in October. If realized this forecast will be 35 percent more than last season's 19.3 million box utilization.

The fruit size and drop measurements obtained in October and November are the primary indicators used in setting this month's forecast. Fruit growth for the **white** grapefruit has progressed as expected, and the projection of the number of pieces of fruit required to fill a 1-3/5 bushel box is unchanged from October. Droppage, at 9 percent, is less than projected in October, but the effect is not enough to alter the forecast. Growth and drop are both running slightly less than the average of the last 10 non-hurricane-affected years. The overall quality of the grapefruit has been reported as very good this season, and nearly equal amounts of white grapefruit have gone to fresh and processing. Typically, as harvesting increases, more white grapefruit goes towards processing. As of the first of the month, an estimated 670,000 boxes of white grapefruit have been harvested.

CITRUS PRODUCTION: December 1, 2006 forecasts by varieties and States, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2004-05	2005-06	Oct. 12, 2006	Dec. 11, 2006
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
GRAPEFRUIT:				
Florida-All	12,800	19,300	26,000	26,000
White	3,400	6,500	9,000	9,000
Colored	9,400	12,800	17,000	17,000
California	6,100	6,000	5,700	5,700
Texas	6,600	5,200	6,700	6,700
Arizona	140	100	100	100
Total Grapefruit	25,640	30,600	38,500	38,500
LEMONS:				
California	20,500	21,000	19,700	19,700
Arizona	2,400	3,800	2,800	2,800
Total Lemons	22,900	24,800	22,500	22,500
TEMPLES: Florida	650	700	^{1/}	^{1/}
TANGELOS: Florida	1,550	1,400	1,100	1,100
TANGERINES:				
Florida-All	4,450	5,500	4,600	4,600
Early ^{2/}	2,450	2,850	2,400	2,400
Honey	2,000	2,650	2,200	2,200
California ^{3/}	2,900	3,600	3,800	3,800
Arizona ^{3/}	400	550	400	400
Total Tangerines	7,750	9,650	8,800	8,800

^{1/} Included in early-midseason-Navel oranges.

^{2/} Fallglo and Sunburst varieties.

^{3/} Includes tangelos and tangors.

COMPONENTS USED IN THE DECEMBER FORECAST

Type	Bearing Trees	Fruit per Tree	Percent Droppage	Fruit per box
(1,000)				
GRAPEFRUIT:				
White ^{1/}	2,067	469	9	88
Colored	4,243	447	12	100

^{1/} Seedless variety only.

The rate of growth for **colored** grapefruit was less than projected in October and now it will take two more pieces of fruit to fill a 1-3/5 bushel box. Compared to the last ten years not affected by hurricanes, fruit size at harvest is projected to be smaller than seven and larger than three. The drop rate is slightly more than projected, and the 12 percent adopted for droppage is now above average. Due to the high quality of the colored grapefruit, a large majority is going fresh compared to processed. As of the first of the month, an estimated 2.6 million boxes of colored grapefruit have been harvested.

ALL TANGERINES REMAIN AT 4.6 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all tangerines stays at 4.6 million boxes. The forecast consist of the early varieties (Fallglo and Sunburst) at 2.4 million boxes and the later maturing Honey variety at 2.2 million boxes.

The early variety of tangerines is 56 percent harvested. **Fallglo** harvest is complete for the season, and the remaining **Sunburst** tangerines are being picked primarily for the fresh market. The final size for Sunburst is just slightly less than average, however, the droppage is more than 1.5 times the 10 season average for 1994-2003. As of December 1, an estimated 1.3 million boxes of early tangerines were harvested.

Honey tangerines account for 48 percent of the total tangerine forecast. If realized, this season's late variety will be the second largest percentage of the total tangerine crop since the 1992-93 season, when both Sunburst and Fallglo were relatively new varieties. Final fruit sizes of Honey tangerines are projected to be below average this season, requiring 260 pieces of fruit to fill a 1-3/5 bushel box. Droppage at 28 percent is projected to be 10 points below average.

TANGELOS 1.1 MILLION BOXES

The **Tangelo** forecast at 1.1 million boxes remains unchanged. The final fruit size measurement is near average and indicates 240 pieces of fruit will fill a box. Droppage was at a record low level at the start of the season and finalized at 6.1 percent, slightly above the minimum of the past 10 seasons. Typically, half of the fresh shipments occur in December in conjunction with fundraising and gift fruit sales.

UNADJUSTED MATURITY TESTS: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 2005-06 and 2006-07 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07
	Percent		Percent				Pounds		Pounds	
	Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.									
ORANGES:										
Early (112-111)										
Sep 1	1.81	1.71	9.31	9.44	5.20	5.61	39.10	42.68	3.64	4.02
Oct 1	1.33	1.16	9.40	9.57	7.16	8.44	44.75	48.86	4.20	4.68
Nov 1	0.90	0.92	9.85	10.33	11.19	11.42	50.18	49.83	4.94	5.15
Dec 1	0.82	0.83	10.66	10.81	13.32	13.18	51.04	52.09	5.44	5.62
Midseason (52-50)										
Sep 1	1.97	1.81	9.09	9.28	4.67	5.24	39.50	42.79	3.59	3.97
Oct 1	1.52	1.29	9.38	9.52	6.29	7.52	45.33	50.09	4.25	4.77
Nov 1	1.12	1.04	9.95	10.30	9.16	10.15	50.92	50.87	5.06	5.24
Dec 1	0.97	0.88	10.90	10.85	11.46	12.49	51.77	52.49	5.64	5.69
Late (148-150)										
Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.60	2.50	9.02	8.91	3.51	3.59	43.06	45.75	3.88	4.08
Nov 1	1.98	2.02	9.15	9.82	4.66	4.94	48.16	48.78	4.41	4.79
Dec 1	1.64	1.70	9.83	9.88	6.07	5.89	51.04	51.66	5.02	5.10
GRAPEFRUIT:										
White Seedless (45-47)										
Sep 1	1.77	1.87	9.91	10.55	5.60	5.64	29.65	32.16	2.94	3.38
Oct 1	1.55	1.60	9.91	10.51	6.41	6.59	36.51	37.28	3.61	3.91
Nov 1	1.40	1.58	9.70	10.78	6.99	6.85	41.13	41.47	3.99	4.46
Dec 1	1.27	1.56	9.67	10.87	7.62	7.01	43.30	42.90	4.18	4.67
Colored Seedless (42-46)										
Sep 1	1.78	1.86	10.18	10.46	5.75	5.65	30.72	31.91	3.13	3.33
Oct 1	1.52	1.55	10.14	10.49	6.67	6.79	36.65	38.76	3.72	4.06
Nov 1	1.34	1.54	9.95	11.26	7.43	7.37	40.93	42.75	4.07	4.81
Dec 1	1.20	1.45	9.84	10.94	8.21	7.57	43.17	43.94	4.24	4.81

NOTICE: All samples were run through an FMC 091 machine using mechanical pressure only. This machine utilizes a .040 short strainer and standard 5/8-inch orifice tube. The beam settings are also identical to past tests and no restrictors are used.

MATURITY TEST AVERAGES BY AREAS, DECEMBER 1, 2006

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
ORANGES:						
Early						
Indian River District	9	0.81	10.87	13.42	51.88	5.66
Other Areas	102	0.83	10.80	13.16	52.11	5.61
Midseason						
Indian River District	10	0.90	11.10	12.42	54.26	6.02
Other Areas	40	0.88	10.78	12.50	52.04	5.61
Late						
Indian River District	26	1.72	10.05	5.86	50.90	5.12
Other Areas	124	1.69	9.85	5.90	51.82	5.10
GRAPEFRUIT:						
White Seedless						
Indian River District	38	1.59	11.01	6.98	42.99	4.73
Other Areas	9	1.46	10.32	7.15	42.53	4.39
Colored Seedless						
Indian River District	37	1.48	11.05	7.51	44.06	4.87
Other Areas	9	1.35	10.48	7.81	43.47	4.56

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions developed from the November size survey are shown in the following table. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. These frequency distributions relate to fruit from regular bloom and exclude summer bloom in all years.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from November measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	2004	2005	2006
--- Percent ---			
EARLY AND MIDSEASON ORANGES: (excluding Navels)			
64 and larger	0.9	0.4	3.9
80	5.7	3.3	13.9
100	25.0	17.2	32.8
125	38.9	37.3	31.3
163 and smaller	29.5	41.8	18.1
NAVEL ORANGES:			
64 and larger	51.6	49.9	75.4
80	35.0	33.5	20.4
100	10.1	13.1	3.7
125	2.7	2.7	0.5
163 and smaller	0.6	0.8	0.0
WHITE SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:			
32 and larger	13.1	16.7	11.1
36	17.2	19.3	19.7
40	26.0	26.3	25.0
48	17.9	15.5	17.7
56	11.5	9.7	11.0
63 and smaller	14.3	12.5	15.5
COLORED SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT:			
32 and larger	6.5	14.1	4.3
36	12.2	14.1	12.1
40	22.2	23.3	22.5
48	22.8	17.4	21.1
56	15.1	12.9	16.1
63 and smaller	21.2	18.2	23.9
SUNBURST TANGERINES:			
80 and larger	9.2	9.3	10.3
100 and larger	22.8	21.5	27.8
120	26.4	25.2	27.8
176	15.8	15.3	18.1
210 and smaller	25.8	28.7	16.0
HONEY TANGERINES:			
80 and larger	6.9	2.6	7.5
100	21.2	18.5	25.0
120	32.3	40.2	34.1
176	15.2	18.7	12.5
210 and smaller	24.4	20.0	20.9
TANGELOS:			
80 and larger	18.2	18.9	40.8
100	28.4	33.3	34.2
120	33.4	25.6	17.3
156 and smaller	20.0	22.2	7.7

The charts below describe the relationships of the fruit size measurements with those taken in the previous year. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range, except for the smallest values.

CHART 1: Early and midseason oranges (excluding Navels) size frequency by diameter from November measurements

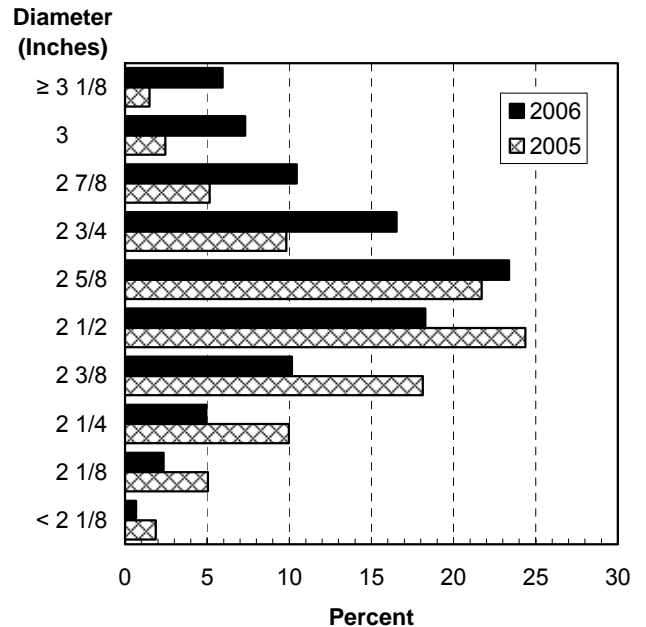


CHART 2: White seedless grapefruit size frequency by diameter from November measurements

